THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): During Presient Zia ul Haq's visit to India on December 17, 1985, it had been envisaged that PM would visit Pakistan during 1986. However, some of the measures which were to culminate in Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan, as mutually agreed during President Zia's visit have not yet been taken by the Government of Pakistan. therefore, no firm plans have been made so far in this regard.

Incentives for project exports and consultancy services

1331. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are offering certain major incentives for project exports and consultancy services; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) With a view to providing support to project exports and consultancy services, it has been decide to:

(i) grant project assistance to the tune of 10 per cent of the net foreign exchange earnings from the portion of the contracts in respects of industrial turnkey and civil construction projects as well as for export of consultancy services;

(ii) grant Market Development Assistance for reimbursement of cost of bids for turnkey construction projects and consultancy services on a graduated scale for different overseas markets; and

(iii) grant enhanced rates of assistance on a graduated scale to consultancy organisations on the approved recurring expenditure incurred for opening and operating offices.

India as a base for International Drug Trafficking

1332. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as a major staging point in international drug trafficking;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total quantity of narcotic drugs seized during the last three years and up to 29th July, 1986 and value thereof in the international market;

(d) what is the number of persons apprehended under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985; and

(e) what further steps are proposed to be taken to check drug trafficking effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) It is a fact that India has, for some time past, been increasingly facing problem of transit traffic in drugs, especially in herion and hashish. This is mainly due to the fact that the Near and Middle East Region adjacent to our country, in recent years has emerged as a major source of supply of illicit drugs.

(c) The total quantity of narcotic drugs seized in India during the years 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986 (upto 29-7-1986) is given in the Statement Appended. (See Appendix CXXXIX Annexure No. 82].

No precise value of the drugs seized can be furnished, as the illicit market price varies widely from place to place and time to time, depending upon the purity of the drug, local demand and supply position, place of origin, etc.

(d) As per reports received by the Narcotics Commissioner of India Gwalior, the number of persons arrested for narcotic offences under

the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 during the period from 14.11.1985 to 29.7.1986 is 643.

(e) The field formations remain vigilant to check the smuggling of drugs. The intelligence machinery has been geared up. In addition to to appropriate anti-smuggling measures taken in co-ordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned, close co-operation with the international agencies concerned and also with the drug law enforcement agencies of U.S.A. ,U.K., etc. is maintained to curb smuggling of drugs. A new organisation under the name of, 'Narcotics Control Bureau' has been set up for effectively co-ordinating action against illicit traffic in drugs. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

Operation of Branches of Nationalised banks abroad

1333. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring in all the branches of nationalised banks operation in foreign countries under one single agency;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) by when it is going to be impiemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Government is not considering at present any specific proposal to bring in all the branches of nationalised banks operating in foreign countries under one single agency.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Glut in yarn production

1334. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is glut in yarn production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has had to crisis in yarn production units and labourers are facing retrenchment; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade Development Authority and UNDP

1335 SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Development Authority is likely to tie up with UNDP for export of electronic components; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Trade Development Authority has formulated a two-year programme for increasing export or Electronic Components to US market. The UNDP has agreed, in principle, to provide technical and financial assistance for this programme. This programme is intended to improve the market access for the Indian electronic components in USA and establish business relationship between the Indian exporters and the US buyers.

Meeting the threat of "Copperhead" Missiles of Pakistan

†1336 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is acquiring highly accurate tank destroyers, the 'Copper-

†Previously Unstarred Question 1007, transferred from the 31st August, 1986.